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SPORTS

A trip to Gillette is on the line Friday in Medford for Winchester and its high-powered offense

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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The Winchester High football team poses proudly with the state Final Four banner and trophy after beating Lincoln-Sudbury in an Elite 8 Division 2 game at Knowlton Stadium last Friday night (Nov. 14), 38-21. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

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Friday's the night for the Division 2 state semifinal showdown be
Winchester's high-powered offense and top-seeded Catholic Memorial (7-2)

at Medford's Hormel Stadium, starting at 6 p.m., with the winner going to Gillette Stadium next month to play in the Super Bowl.

Bridgewater-Raynham (7-3, third seed) is scheduled to go up against Bishop Feehan (9-1, second seed) in the other state semifinal game in Mansfield at the same time.

Winchester High senior running back Nicky Rotondi (3) sees some running room after offensive lineman Ciaran Hannon (59) blocks out a potential Lincoln-Sudbury tackler during an Elite 8 Division 2 game at Knowlton Stadium last Friday night, Nov. 14. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

The Red & Black (10-0, fourth seed) defeated Lincoln-Sudbury (8-2, fifth seed) last Friday night at Knowlton Stadium, 38-21 to advance to tonight's (Nov. 21) aforementioned next big game in Medford. The Knights will have to find a way to contain an offense that continues to rollover the opposition to the tune of 422-111 after 10 games.

Besides another offensive assault, Coach Wally Dembowski was also impressed by his team's ability to matchup with the Warriors one

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"I was pleasantly surprised at our physical play versus a bigger Lincoln-Sudbury team," Dembowski said. "We really executed well on both sides of the football."

Winchester High junior defensive back Andrew Haigis (13) ends up knocking the ball loose from his Lincoln-Sudbury counterpart during an Elite 8 Division 2 game at Knowlton Stadium last Friday night, Nov. 14. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

The veteran coach also liked the way the offense controlled the flow of the game against a quality opponent.

"We continued to run the ball well, while also making some timely catches," he said. "(Lincoln-Sudbury) played physically along both lines, but we still managed things smoothly."

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Winchester High senior captain Bryan Harrison leads the defense in bringing down a Lincoln-Sudbury running back during an Elite 8 Division 2 game at Knowlton Stadium last Friday night, Nov. 14. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

Captain Gianni DePrimeo (20 carries, 192 yards) was the offensive leader once again with three rushing touchdowns. Ryan Martin caught one touchdown pass for 43 yards from quarterback Ronan O'Connell.

On the defensive side of the ball, noseguard Lucas Sekino was credited with two solo tackles, and helped out on three others.

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But it was the captain, Bryan Harrison, who stood out once again at linebacker with eight solo hits to go along with one assisted stop and another one for a loss. Junior Will Bolognese factored significantly on defense with five solos, two assisted tackles and another one for a loss. He also caused a fumble. Senior Quinn Pimentel amassed seven tackl for losses.

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Dembowski said that DePrimeo was the offensive star of the game with help from his linemen, while Pimentel played his best game of the year at linebacker.

Dembowski's take on CM

The coach knows that Catholic Memorial will be a formidable foe, and if they get by them to continue on to the Super Bowl, they would have earned it.

Winchester High football seniors Ted Budreski (1), Ryan Martin (14), William Nelson (5) and Juan Carlin (6), from left, get together for a photo op after the Red & Black took care of Lincoln-Sudbury in an Elite 8 Division 2 game at Knowlton Stadium last Friday night (Nov. 14), 38-21. COURTESY PHOTO/JEN JOHNSON

"Catholic Memorial will be our biggest challenge to date," he said. "They are big on both sides of the ball, and have very good speed at the skill positions. They are also very athletic at quarterback. Their two losses this year were against St. John's Prep and Xaverian, the top two teams in the state. We're going to need to fly to the ball and tackle well, contai
athletic quarterback and be disciplined in our defensive assignme

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will also need to handle their physical man-to-man defense. They have a very good group of linebackers against the run, and their defensive backs are also good in coverage."

But the Winchester coach does like the venue, because of its proximity.

"Playing in Medford is a plus travel-wise, and with that said, we can hopefully get a bunch more fans there (to Hormel Stadium) to cheer us on," he said.

Joe McConnell is a longtime, award-winning sports editor for numerous North Shore publications. He began covering Winchester sports for the News last November.

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Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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March 3, 2026

Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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Latest

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy

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Winchester gun own training rules starting April 2

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affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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